

ALGOMA ELECTION. 16

SOME REASONS WHY
THE MOWAT GOVERNMENT

WOULD BE SUPPORTED.

A SOUND PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION.—WISE
AND GENEROUS TREATMENT OF THE
NEWER DISTRICTS.

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ELECTORS OF ALGOMA.

Again the period has arrived when it becomes your privilege, and also your duty as good citizens, to exercise the right of franchise in the choice of two Members to represent you for the next four years in the Legislature of Ontario. At such a juncture it is in the highest degree incumbent upon you as free and independent electors to ponder carefully all those various considerations which ought to influence you in coming to a conscientious and intelligent conclusion as to how you should use your voice and votes. First and foremost the principles which ought to guide you to a right decision are those which affect the Province as a whole, because it is the Government of the Hon. Oliver Mowat that is upon trial, and according as you support or oppose the Reform nominees you approve or condemn that Government. The next aspect of affairs which ought to influence you is the past administration with respect to the District in which your more immediate interests lie, and judging by the record, to consider what may fairly be expected of the Government in the future.

POSITION OF PARTIES.

It is not necessary here to go into any elaborate explanation of the reasons why, upon Provincial grounds, you should support the Mowat Administration, as you, in common with the rest of the people of the Province, had the benefit of seeing these fully discussed in the public prints during the late general elections. That the Mowat Government has satisfactorily administered the affairs of the Province is shown in an unmistakable manner by the fact that after a term of fourteen years in office it has been reinstated now with a larger majority of supporters than in the last Parliament. Still further proof of its efficiency is afforded by no less unwilling witnesses than its opponents themselves, who during the recent elections found so little cause for attack that they rested their case almost solely upon a false sectarian cry. Happily for the future peace and good relationship of all sections of the community, the people of Ontario had the good sense to recognize in this wicked course a mere dodge to secure political support, and having condemned it in so signal a manner it is not necessary to refer to it now, beyond doing so thus briefly to show how barren was the field for attack against the Government. You, the electors of Algoma, are not less capable of discerning between the merits of the parties, and are not likely therefore to return members to oppose a Government which is so strong in the confidence of the people, that without Algoma it enjoys a majority of twenty-four in the House.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

Nor when the record is reviewed is it surprising that the Government has so strong a hold upon the affections of the people. As an evidence that the affairs of the Province have been well and wisely managed, look briefly at the financial record. In this respect the administration has been characterized by honesty, economy, and yet by judicious and even liberal expenditure.

It is well known that Ministers take no credit to themselves for honesty, because this is only as it should be; but in these days of plunder and corruption it is surely gratifying to find that the first whisper remains to be heard, that of the \$46,000,000 which they have handled since taking office in 1871 a single dollar has been spent dishonestly.

That due regard has been paid to economy is shown by the fact that to-day there is a surplus on hand amounting to no less a sum than \$6,680,339.78.

As showing that the expenditures have been judicious, during the three years ending 1886 the Opposition has only taken exception to amounts aggregating in that time \$29,050 out of appropriations amounting to \$8,966,085. In other words the Opposition has only objected to three mills in the dollar of the proposed expenditures, and even in these cases the objections could easily be shown to have been purely factions.

That the expenditures have been liberal in the interest of the people is shown by the fact, that since taking office the Government has spent the large sum of \$35,000,000 in objects more or less directly for their benefit. Education has been aided to the extent of \$6,000,000; Agriculture and Arts to the amount of nearly \$2,000,000, and in various other ways money has been liberally expended, the people thereby enjoying advantages which they otherwise would not possess.

The results of these expenditures have been to develop and improve the country and to elevate and ameliorate the condition of the people. In these benefits the District of Algoma has largely shared, and reflecting men are not apt to forget such circumstances; neither are they likely to hesitate in trusting their interests in the future to those who have looked after them so well in the past.

EXPENDITURES IN ALGOMA.

That the District has been generously dealt with will be seen by the following statement of expenditures in the two divisions of Algoma as they are at present constituted from Confederation to the end of 1886:—

	Algoma East.	Algoma West.
Surveys.....	\$101,063 57	\$72,931 34
Colonization Roads.....	209,085 38	106,009 23
Railway Aid.....		10,892 28
Public Works and Buildings.....	18,948 37	81,568 90
Agriculture.....	12,897 00	
Education.....	46,625 32	14,206 74
Administration of Justice.....	155,949 88	151,365 98
Relief to distressed settlers.....	1,045 26	1,000 00
Election expenses.....	7,111 93	1,544 77
Boundary expenses.....		55,747 70
Totals.....	\$551,726 71	\$495,267 44
		551,726 71
Total for the whole District.....		\$1,046,994 15

Such a showing is at once sufficient to silence all the Tory assertions that the expenditures have not been liberal within the District, but lest opponents of the Government should resort to the old dodge of charging that the receipts are far in excess of the outlay it is well that they should be silenced upon this point also.

Of course it is an absurd charge to make, for this reason, that it would be a monstrous thing to expend moneys only in such localities as they were derived, and not where they were actually required in the public interest. Apply that rule to the expenditure of moneys received by the Dominion from Customs and Excise duties, and the expenditures would be confined to ports of entry and collection, and thus the great mass of the people would be entirely cut off from receiving any benefit whatever from these, by far the largest sources of revenue the Dominion has.

Take another example nearer home. Manitoulin Island, it is well known, contributes but a mere trifle towards the Provincial revenues, being composed entirely of Indian lands. During the last nine or ten years it has been found necessary to expend the large sum of nearly \$60,000 on this Island, upon Colonization Roads alone, yet if the ideas of opponents of the Government had prevailed, these very necessary expenditures could not have been made, and the people of Manitoulin would have been far behind in respect to the present advantages they enjoy.

But after all there is nothing in the charge about receipts exceeding expenditures in the District. As shown above the expenditures since Confederation amount to \$1,046,994 in the two divisions of the District, and this statement does not include Algoma's share of the cost of Civil Government and Legislation, which if added would bring the amount up to a great deal more. During the same period the collections on account of timber bonuses, dues and ground rents amount to only \$346,732, without deducting any of the expenses incurred in administering this branch of the service. Thus there is actually an excess of expen-

ditures over and above all receipts from timber sources of no less than two hundred thousand dollars in round numbers.

PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION.

Another evidence of the generous treatment accorded by the Government to Algoma is the parliamentary representation which it enjoys. It used to be charged that the District was being unfairly treated in this regard, when it had only one representative in the Legislature. However, as soon as a fresh distribution of seats took place after the last decennial census, and when it was seen that the District was entitled to another member, two seats were at once provided.

How different has been the treatment meted out by the Conservatives in the matter of Dominion representation. They also made a fresh distribution of seats, but they did not give the District two Members; and yet the very men who prated loudest about the injustice being done by the Ontario Government in this matter have not found a word to say in condemnation of the conduct of their friends at Ottawa. This proof of insincerity, and of disregard for the rights of the District, ought to be marked with disapprobation by every elector who properly values the privileges of parliamentary representation by voting against candidates of the stripe who have ignored your interests in this respect.

Although patriotism calls upon you look beyond the narrow sphere of personality to the broader and higher ground of good government, yet in connection with this matter of representation it is fitting to say something of your representatives. The Reform nominees, Mr. R. A. Lyon in Eastern Algoma, and Mr. James Connice in Western Algoma, ought to be supported. Why? First, because they are the friends of the Government which has done so well by the Province and the District in the past, and which, even now, is preparing to do more in the latter respect. Second, because not only on account of their influence with the Government, but by reason of their parliamentary experience, they will be better able to secure for the District what it requires than new and inexperienced members opposed to the Government. Third, because they have served your interests faithfully hitherto, and may safely be relied upon to do so in the future.

Mr. Lyon deserves your gratitude in this very matter of the liberal representation you enjoy, he having been largely instrumental in securing you two members for the District. Although Mr. Connice's term in Parliament has been shorter he has already proved himself a faithful worker and an influential member of the House.

TITLES TO LANDS.

If there is one matter more than another about which in all conscience the Conservative party ought to keep quiet it is the

of the "disputed territory." Shame in consequence of the culpable conduct of the Dominion Government alone should suffice to make them avoid this of all subjects. Yet with strange foolhardiness they are seeking to make a result of that dispute the burning question, so far as West Algoma is concerned, in this election. That result is the withholding of titles to lands in the territory.

You all know that if the award of the Arbitrators, given in 1878, had been confirmed by the Dominion, as it should have been, the Government of Ontario would have been in a position and stood ready to grant titles to lands in the territory immediately after the award was made. But the Dominion Government in violation of the universal practice among nations, repudiated that award, and thus prevented titles from being granted. Then after the award had been substantially reaffirmed by the highest court in the realm, the Provincial authorities were once more ready and anxious to grant patents to such as were entitled to them, and to thus remove the great hardship caused by the suspense and uncertainty under which the settlers were kept; but again the Ottawa Government stepped in to prevent this being done, by setting up the unwarrantable plea that the timber, minerals and lands belonged to the Dominion by reason of a title from the Indians.

Throughout this whole dispute the Ottawa Government has been perfectly well aware that it had not the faintest shadow of a title to the territory. It has known that all the expensive and useless litigation which it has caused could have but one issue finally, and that in favor of the Province; and knowing this, do you as fair-minded, reasoning men believe that if the Conservative party had been so considerate of your interests as they now profess to be when they are seeking to gain a present political advantage, they would have pursued the vindictive course they have in this matter, which course, and which course alone, has prevented the Government of Ontario from issuing patents long ago? Certainly they would not, and it is simply adding insult to injury, after having done all they could to prevent these titles from being granted, to appeal to you for support against the Mowat Administration which has been doing its utmost to secure such a settlement of the dispute as would enable this Province to grant titles to the lands within its own boundaries.

So long as there was any hope that the Dominion authorities would abandon their unwarrantable proceedings, and while the case was still before the courts, the Mowat Government was loath to adopt the extreme course of issuing titles in the "disputed territory;" but realizing now that Sir John Macdonald is determined to prolong the dispute by carrying the case, in the face of adverse decisions, from one court to another, the Provin-

cial Government has decided that at all hazards it will come to the relief of settlers now, and take upon itself the responsibility of issuing these patents forthwith. The following letter from the Hon. T. B. Pardee, Commissioner of Crown lands, to Mr. James Conmee, M.P.P., will explain this decision more fully:—

TORONTO, May 14, 1887.

DEAR SIR,—I have not overlooked or forgotten your repeated and urgent requests that the Government of Ontario would at once take such action as it might deem advisable and necessary to put an end to the uncertainty which prevails regarding titles to lands in the District of Rainy River, which, as you state, is causing great dissatisfaction and injury to settlers and others, and also is seriously retarding the material progress of the country.

In connection with this important question, which for a long time has been a subject of serious and anxious consideration, I desire now to say that the Government of Ontario, having had, and having now, the utmost confidence in the justice of its claim or title to the lands in the territory, has hitherto delayed action, hoping wiser counsels would prevail at Ottawa, and that the Government of Canada would consider the interests of the people to be paramount to all other considerations and would abandon its unwarrantable pretensions, which have so seriously delayed the settlement and development of the District. But as there appears now little reason for hope that they will do this, and as the interest of the country has seriously suffered in the past, and will continue to suffer for some time yet if the case is to be carried to the Privy Council, as threatened by the Dominion Government, the Government of Ontario has decided that it would be justified in taking immediate action, and thus, as far as possible, relieving the settlers and others having claims in the district from further suspense and anxiety.

I have therefore to say that the Government has determined to take immediate steps to investigate all the disputed and other claims to lands in that region, and to issue patents without further delay.

Yours truly,

T. B. PARDEE.

James Conmee, Esq., M.P.P.,
Port Arthur, Ont.

But it is alleged that if the granting of patents to lands is now the proper course to pursue it ought to have been taken long ago. The obvious reply is that the issuing of patents to lands, the ownership of which is still disputed by the Dominion Government, is, as has been pointed out, an extreme measure which ought to be regarded as a last resort. So long as there was any hope that the Dominion Government would recognize in good faith the finding of the Privy Council in the boundary case it was deemed best to exhaust all ordinary means of securing an amicable settlement of the question of title to the lands. When the Ontario Court of Appeal recently and unanimously decided in the case of the St. Catharines Milling Company that the title of this Province was good it was hoped that the Dominion Government would then retire from its untenable and unpatriotic position. On the contrary the case was carried to the Supreme Court at Ottawa, and it has been intimated that if

the Ontario judgment is confirmed there the appeal will be carried to the Privy Council. It is in view of this persistence on the part of the Dominion Government in the effort to defraud Ontario out of her property, that the Mowat Government has resolved to do what it can to settle the question of title, relying on the absolute certainty of the claim of Ontario to the land being ultimately declared good.

COLONIZATION ROADS.

Another ground upon which the Government is attacked is that of its management of Colonization Roads. These attacks have been repeated and bitter, notwithstanding that the Opposition has been utterly unable to prove a single charge of corruption or mismanagement. It is not therefore with the view of improving the management of colonization roads, but with the object of courting a little cheap popularity, that the Conservative party have proposed placing this branch of the service under the control of Municipal Councils. A motion to effect this change was made during the recent session of the Legislature by Mr. Marter, the member for Muskoka.

The disadvantages which would result from such a change are patent to every person who knows anything about the subject. For this reason it is not necessary to enlarge upon the objections. However, it may be pointed out that under the present system there are no local interests to serve, and the money is expended where it is most required. Another thing is that by purchasing supplies in large quantities in the wholesale markets at contract prices the Government is able to buy cheaply and there is just so much more money to be devoted to the works and to be paid out in wages to those settlers and others employed upon them than there would be if the Municipal Councils had charge of the roads and had to pay higher prices for supplies, as they would have to do in consequence of buying in smaller quantities.

In view of the evident advantages of the present system the position taken by Mr. Conmee, as expressed in the following amendment to Mr. Marter's motion, will at once have the unqualified approval of all right thinking men:—

That all the words after the first word "But" in the motion, be struck out and the following inserted in lieu thereof:—"This House, while concurring in the Resolution, approves of the policy of the Government in expending yearly a limited sum of money in building Colonization Roads in the new and outlying districts, in such manner as will not only produce the greatest mileage of road, but will, at the same time, give employment to the settlers in constructing such roads."

Since 1872 the Mowat Government has expended upon Colonization Roads in the newer districts the large sum of \$1,650,111.80, and the fact that the Opposition has been unable to prove anything wrong in this expenditure, notwithstanding its

vague charges, is conclusive evidence that this branch of the public service has been honestly and well administered.

When the policy of the Dominion with regard to the disputed territory is considered, and when it is remembered that it is only since 1873 that any expenditures were made at all upon Colonization Roads in the Municipalities which now constitute Western Algoma, the expenditure of \$315,094.61 under this head in the District since the Mowat Government took office shows that it has received a very favorable proportion of the outlay in this respect. In the future, as the outlying districts are opened up to settlement, of course these expenditures are sure to become larger, and as an evidence that the Government is bound to prosecute a progressive policy in respect of Colonization Roads it may be mentioned that the handsome sum of \$34,500 has been appropriated for this purpose during the present year in Algoma.

THE TIMBER POLICY.

Another method which Conservatives adopt at election times with a view of making political capital is that of proposing that the timber should go to the settler with the land. They know full well that it is now the universal practice of Governments which have to deal with timber extensively to reserve it for the benefit of the crown, and the Conservative Government at Ottawa has not departed from that line. This being the case surely the best that can be done in the interests of the settlers is to realize the highest possible price in bonuses for timber berths in order that there may be the more to distribute among the people in useful ways, such as constructing for them colonization roads, helping to maintain their schools and in fostering agriculture, etc. A comparison of the Ontario and Dominion policies of dealing with timber berths will show whether the Liberal or Tory method is the better. As you know, the policy of the Mowat Government is to sell the right to cut to the highest bidder at public auction. That of the Ottawa Government has been to make secret sales of large berths to political favorites and hangers-on. Since 1872 the former Government has disposed of 2,907 square miles of timber and has realized the large sum of \$1,160,000, or \$400 per square mile. For the same area the Dominion Government has only obtained \$14,535 or \$5 per square mile. In one case the timber wealth of the country has been devoted to the work of carrying on the government and for the advantage of the whole people. In the other it has been going into the pockets of speculators and "boodlers." In view of these facts the Conservatives had better show their ability to deal properly with the timber interests that are already intrusted to them before, with the hope of winning supporters, they make suggestions with respect

to the well managed timber interests of Ontario which they know to be impossible of fulfilment.

It would be an easy matter to go on enumerating various other ways in which the Government of Ontario is wisely caring for the interests of the Province in general and of Algoma and the newer districts in particular; how in respect of legislation, by means of the application of the Land Titles Act to Algoma and outlying districts provision has recently been made for a simple and inexpensive system of registering lands; how, as regards taxation, provision has been made in favor of the actual settler by the exemption of such lands as are occupied for *bona fide* farming purposes, while a tax of one cent an acre is put upon non-resident land holders, as well as a tax of one cent an acre upon all unoccupied lands embraced in any school section in the District; how by the creation of useful municipal machinery good government in this respect is being provided for; how in the matter of surveying, the country is being opened up for settlement; and how also by the sale of mining lands at the nominal price of \$2 per acre, without the imposition of vexatious restrictions, or royalties, or anything else to hamper operations, a great and growing industry is being fostered and encouraged in your midst. But enough has been said to remind you that your interests are being cared for by a wise and paternal Government and that they will be best conserved in the future by a renewal of your confidence in that Government.

Electors of Algoma! In addition to what has been said it would be base to appeal for your support on the ground that the Government is powerful to help your District, while the Opposition is weak and powerless to do anything. Nor is there any need for such a course. As distinguished from the wise, the pure, the patriotic features of the Administration, the Opposition apart from being in a hopeless minority, is unfruitful in legislation, feeble in administrative ability, and, what is far worse, weak in political morality. The absence of any large number of laws upon the Statute books promoted by Opposition members bears out the first of these assertions; their ineffective criticisms in the House give ample testimony of the second, and it is not necessary in substantiation of the third to remind you of the treacherous and dishonorable course they have taken with reference to our territorial and legislative rights. As between such a Government and such an Opposition there is no room for hesitation as to which is the patriotic course to take in this election, and you will be recreant to your own interests and to your past record if you do not return the Reform candidates, Mr. R. A. Lyon and Mr. James Conmee, at the head of the polls by overwhelming majorities.